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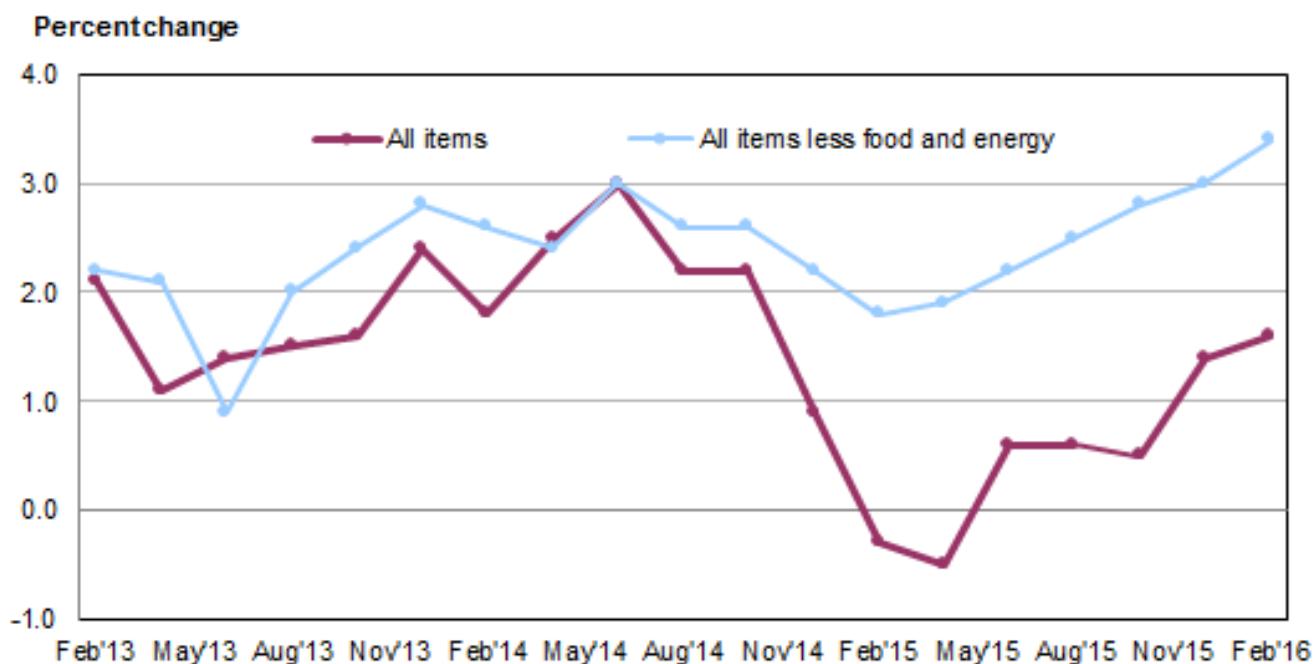
Consumer Price Index, Atlanta – February 2016

Area prices up 0.3 percent over the two months and 1.6 percent over the year

The Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) for Atlanta edged up 0.3 percent over the January-February pricing period, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. Regional Commissioner Janet S. Rankin noted that the all items less food and energy index increased 1.0 percent over the two months. The energy index declined 6.2 percent while the food index edged down 0.3 percent during the January-February pricing period. (Data in this report are not seasonally adjusted. Accordingly, month-to-month changes may reflect the impact of seasonal influences.)

Over the last 12 months, the CPI-U increased 1.6 percent. The index for all items less food and energy advanced 3.4 percent over the year as several indexes registered increases, most notably shelter. (See [chart 1](#) and [table 1](#).)

Chart 1. 12-month percent change in CPI for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U), Atlanta, February 2013–February 2016



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Food

Food prices edged down 0.3 percent during the January-February pricing period as food at home prices declined 0.7 percent. Prices for food away from home edged up 0.3 percent over the two months.

Over the year, the food index decreased 0.5 percent, led by a 1.4-percent price decline in the food at home index. Prices for food away from home increased 1.0 percent since February 2015.

Energy

The energy index declined 6.2 percent over the two-month pricing period, led by a 15.0-percent decrease in motor fuel prices. Prices for utility (piped) gas service also declined (-1.6 percent) while electricity prices increased 2.3 percent.

Over the year, the energy index decreased 11.6 percent, reflecting a 22.5-percent drop in motor fuel prices. Since February 2015, prices declined 4.3 percent for utility (piped) gas service and 0.8 percent for electricity.

All items less food and energy

The index for all items less food and energy rose 1.0 percent during the January-February pricing period as increases were recorded for apparel (8.5 percent), shelter (0.7 percent), medical care (2.6 percent), and education and communication (0.8 percent).

From February 2015 to February 2016, the index for all items less food and energy advanced 3.4 percent. A 4.8-percent increase in the shelter index was primarily responsible for the increase in the all items less food and energy index over the 12 months.

Table A. Atlanta metropolitan area CPI-U 2-month and 12-month percent changes, all items index, not seasonally adjusted

Month	2011		2012		2013		2014		2015		2016	
	2-month	12-month	2-month	12-month	2-month	12-month	2-month	12-month	2-month	12-month	2-month	12-month
February	1.6	1.5	1.0	2.4	1.9	2.1	1.3	1.8	0.0	-0.3	0.3	1.6
April	1.7	2.5	1.1	1.8	0.1	1.1	0.8	2.5	0.7	-0.5	-	-
June	0.9	3.1	0.6	1.5	1.0	1.4	1.5	3.0	2.5	0.6	-	-
August	0.6	3.8	0.6	1.5	0.7	1.5	-0.1	2.2	-0.1	0.6	-	-
October	-1.5	3.1	-1.2	1.8	-1.0	1.6	-1.1	2.2	-1.2	0.5	-	-
December	-0.3	3.0	-0.9	1.2	-0.2	2.4	-1.5	0.9	-0.6	1.4	-	-

The Consumer Price Index for March 2016 is scheduled to be released on Thursday, April 14, 2016.

Technical Note

The Consumer Price Index (CPI) is a measure of the average change in prices over time in a fixed market basket of goods and services. The Bureau of Labor Statistics publishes CPIs for two population groups: (1) a CPI for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) which covers approximately 89 percent of the total population and (2) a CPI for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) which covers 28 percent of the total population. The CPI-U includes, in addition to wage earners and clerical workers, groups such as professional, managerial, and technical workers, the self-employed, short-term workers, the unemployed, and retirees and others not in the labor force.

The CPI is based on prices of food, clothing, shelter, and fuels, transportation fares, charges for doctors' and dentists' services, drugs, and the other goods and services that people buy for day-to-day living. Each month, prices are collected in 87 urban areas across the country from about 6,000 housing units and approximately 24,000 retail establishments—department stores, supermarkets, hospitals, filling stations, and other types of stores and service establishments. All taxes directly associated with the purchase and use of items are included in the index.

The index measures price changes from a designated reference date (1982-84) that equals 100.0. An increase of 16.5 percent, for example, is shown as 116.5. This change can also be expressed in dollars as follows: the price of a base period "market basket" of goods and services in the CPI has risen from \$10 in 1982-84 to \$11.65. For further details see the CPI home page on the Internet at www.bls.gov/cpi and the BLS Handbook of Methods, Chapter 17, The Consumer Price Index, available on the Internet at www.bls.gov/opub/hom/pdf/homch17.pdf.

In calculating the index, price changes for the various items in each location are averaged together with weights that represent their importance in the spending of the appropriate population group. Local data are then combined to obtain a U.S. city average. Because the sample size of a local area is smaller, the local area index is subject to substantially more sampling and other measurement error than the national index. In addition, local indexes are not adjusted for seasonal influences. As a result, local area indexes show greater volatility than the national index, although their long-term trends are quite similar. **NOTE: Area indexes do not measure differences in the level of prices between cities; they only measure the average change in prices for each area since the base period.**

The **Atlanta, Ga.** metropolitan area covered in this release is comprised of Barrow, Bartow, Carroll, Cherokee, Clayton, Cobb, Coweta, DeKalb, Douglas, Fayette, Forsyth, Fulton, Gwinnett, Henry, Newton, Paulding, Pickens, Rockdale, Spalding, and Walton Counties in Georgia.

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Table 1. Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U): Indexes and percent changes for selected periods Atlanta, GA (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted)

Item and Group	Indexes			Percent change from-		
	Dec. 2015	Jan. 2016	Feb. 2016	Feb. 2015	Dec. 2015	Jan. 2016
Expenditure category						
All Items.....	221.015	-	221.658	1.6	0.3	-
All items (1967=100)	666.515	-	668.452	-	-	-
Food and beverages	250.611	-	250.126	-0.3	-0.2	-
Food	261.645	-	260.978	-0.5	-0.3	-
Food at home	251.397	249.477	249.731	-1.4	-0.7	0.1
Food away from home.....	279.000	-	279.820	1.0	0.3	-
Alcoholic beverages	152.126	-	153.264	1.3	0.7	-
Housing	217.571	-	218.894	3.0	0.6	-
Shelter	237.211	237.908	238.867	4.8	0.7	0.4
Rent of primary residence ⁽¹⁾	240.688	241.154	242.253	5.1	0.7	0.5
Owners' equiv. rent of residences ⁽¹⁾ ⁽²⁾	232.392	233.067	233.252	4.1	0.4	0.1
Owners' equiv. rent of primary residence ⁽¹⁾ ⁽²⁾	232.392	233.067	233.252	4.1	0.4	0.1
Fuels and utilities.....	269.774	-	272.464	-1.3	1.0	-
Household energy	228.101	231.366	231.112	-1.7	1.3	-0.1
Energy Services ⁽¹⁾	226.829	230.050	229.827	-1.7	1.3	-0.1
Electricity ⁽¹⁾	200.827	204.721	205.439	-0.8	2.3	0.4
Utility (piped) gas service ⁽¹⁾	247.921	247.534	243.863	-4.3	-1.6	-1.5
Household furnishings and operations.....	120.414	-	119.202	-5.4	-1.0	-
Apparel.....	133.551	-	144.845	6.5	8.5	-
Transportation	183.809	-	177.999	-4.2	-3.2	-
Private transportation	181.863	-	176.090	-4.6	-3.2	-
Motor fuel	176.674	163.405	150.260	-22.5	-15.0	-8.0
Gasoline (all types).....	175.369	162.229	149.161	-22.4	-14.9	-8.1
Unleaded regular ⁽³⁾	171.527	158.429	145.257	-23.1	-15.3	-8.3
Unleaded midgrade ⁽³⁾ ⁽⁴⁾	219.100	204.204	189.572	-20.4	-13.5	-7.2
Unleaded premium ⁽³⁾	192.376	180.075	169.347	-16.3	-12.0	-6.0
Medical Care	414.446	-	425.095	3.9	2.6	-
Recreation ⁽⁵⁾	86.763	-	86.938	2.0	0.2	-
Education and communication ⁽⁵⁾	134.711	-	135.758	2.6	0.8	-
Other goods and services	364.324	-	364.104	6.0	-0.1	-
Commodity and service group						
All Items.....	221.015	-	221.658	1.6	0.3	-
Commodities	172.562	-	171.551	-2.3	-0.6	-
Commodities less food & beverages.....	137.830	-	136.608	-3.5	-0.9	-
Nondurables less food & beverages	165.247	-	162.342	-4.7	-1.8	-
Durables	109.252	-	109.720	-1.8	0.4	-
Services.....	266.898	-	268.994	3.7	0.8	-
Special aggregate indexes						
All items less medical care	210.660	-	210.844	1.4	0.1	-
All items less shelter.....	218.425	-	218.609	0.0	0.1	-
Commodities less food	138.016	-	136.894	-3.3	-0.8	-
Nondurables	202.561	-	200.775	-2.4	-0.9	-
Nondurables less food.....	163.131	-	160.559	-4.3	-1.6	-
Services less rent of shelter ⁽²⁾	316.429	-	318.958	2.6	0.8	-
Services less medical care services.....	250.857	-	252.305	3.8	0.6	-
Energy	183.417	178.454	172.029	-11.6	-6.2	-3.6
All items less energy	224.780	-	226.626	2.8	0.8	-

Note: See footnotes at end of table.

Table 1. Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U): Indexes and percent changes for selected periods Atlanta, GA (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted) - Continued

Item and Group	Indexes			Percent change from-		
	Dec. 2015	Jan. 2016	Feb. 2016	Feb. 2015	Dec. 2015	Jan. 2016
All items less food and energy	219.384	-	221.630	3.4	1.0	-

Footnotes

(1) This index series was calculated using a Laspeyres estimator. All other item stratum index series were calculated using a geometric means estimator.

(2) Index is on a December 1982=100 base.

(3) Special index based on a substantially smaller sample.

(4) Indexes on a December 1993=100 base.

(5) Indexes on a December 1997=100 base.

- Data not available.

NOTE: Index applies to a month as a whole, not to any specific date. Data not seasonally adjusted.